

MICHIGAN WORKS! WEST CENTRAL
WDB/LEO JOINT MEETING
REED CITY WORKFORCE SERVICE CENTER
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2019

MINUTES

LEO Members Present

Andersen, Janet
DeLaat, Ken
Emig, Larry
Hogenson, Tom
Howard, Linda
Walls, Karl

LEO Members Absent

Byl, Larry
Cooper, Burt
Johnson, Les

WDB Members Present

Eisler, David
Emerson, Donnie
Frey, Amy
Griffin, Nancy
Kulesza, Lisa
Marek, Ron
Massy, Dan
Roberts, Carla
Stark, Liz
Timmers, Jon
Vyse-Staszak, Janet

WDB Members Absent

Cooper, David
Gustad, Eric
Johnson, Peter
Kosheba, Dan
Romanowski, Cynthia
Smith-Olson, Debbie
Thompson, Sheri
Trucks, Mary
Vanderputte, Larissa
Vasquez, Jill
Visser, William
Whitney, Tina

Michigan Works! West Central Staff

Bennett, Merri	Dunn, Chelsea	Marr, Chad	Shoemaker, Connie
Buss, Mark	Eppley, Jonathan	Reed, Brigette	Smith, Cassie
Campbell, Rebecca	Juengel, Karie	Ridenour, Beth	
Davis, Toni	Keene, Shelly	Sanders, Julie	

Others Present

Johnson, Megan – Yoplait/General Mills

Call to Order

LEO Chairperson, Larry Emig brought the joint meeting of the Workforce Development Board/Local Elected Officials to order at 12:42 p.m. at the Reed City Workforce Service Center, 240 East Church Avenue 49677. There is a quorum of the LEO, but not the WDB. Action items will be ratified by the WDB at the next Board meeting with a quorum of the WDB.

Introduction of Guests

Guests were welcomed and introduced.

Welcome New Board Members

- ◇ Donnie Emerson, CCE Facility Administrator GEO North Lake Correctional Facility

Donnie said he is very happy to be part of the Workforce Board. West Central was very supportive in the early days of GEO opening. They now have 280 staff on board and will be ramping up to 1,800 prisoners. This is a ten year contract that could be 20 to 30 years with extensions.

- ◇ Lisa Kulesza, Administrative Manager Peterson Farms

Lisa is very happy to be part of the Workforce Board.

Consent Agenda (*Action Item*)

- ◇ Minutes of October 2, 2019 WDB/LEO Joint Meeting – Emailed Prior
- ◇ October Financial Report – Emailed Prior/Handout (Goldenrod)

Karl Walls moved to accept the Consent Agenda as printed; supported by Dan Massy; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO and those present of the WDB. 12:47 p.m.

Osceola County Information

Karie Juengel, Talent Specialist at the Reed City Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center reported that the Center continues to connect with employers – 29 employers in October and 22 in November.

PATH has officially been brought back to Osceola County. This is especially good for participants as they were driving to Big Rapids for services.

November 12th staff participated in the Reed City Expo and 63 people stopped at the Michigan Works! table. They were able to speak to some of them regarding employment opportunities.

Karie said the Centers are becoming less known as the unemployment office and more as an employment agency.

Plans/Modifications Summary – Handout Blue (Action Item)

1. WIOA Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth AY'19 Allocation (19-20 c1) – *No Action Required*

The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity has distributed additional AY'19 WIOA funds. The additional allocation for Adult is \$1,492 for a total of \$609,822, for Dislocated Worker \$296 for a total of \$505,547, and for Youth \$2,041 for a total of \$692,036.

2. Employment Service Allocation for AY'19 (19-19 c1) – *No Action Required*

Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity released an additional \$960,000 funds for Wagner Peyser bringing the total allocation for Michigan Works! West Central to \$277,735. Employment Services are provided to job seekers and employers from each of the six Workforce Service Centers. Employment Services must be provided by merit based employees.

3. Trade Act Plan 20-00 (Draft 19-XX) – *Action – Signatures Required*

This Plan is Trade Adjustment Act funding for training, case management and services for workers of companies with certified dislocations due to imports. Trade Act funding has been allocated on an individual customer basis, with case management funding being in addition to. This plan is for Fiscal Year 2020, allocations for expenditure October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. The West Central allocation for program costs is \$7,396 for Administrative funds is \$369 and \$4,182 for case management for a total funding amount of \$11,947.

4. PATH Plan 20-00 (19-28) *Action – Signatures Required*

This is the Plan for customers who apply for or are receiving public cash assistance. Staff work closely with DHHS staff. There is a 21-day Applicant Eligibility Period (AEP) to prepare and engage applicants in positive activities that promote job readiness and meeting the work participation requirements. These efforts continue for the duration of the customer's participation with DHHS and Michigan Works! This plan begins October 1, 2019 and the overall budget is \$717,858 in federal and \$121,163 in state funding for a total of \$839,021.

5. Healthy Michigan Plan Navigator (HMPN) FY 20 (Draft 19-XX) *Action – Signatures Required*

The MDHHS will implement new work requirements beginning January 1, 2020 for Medicaid beneficiaries who have Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) care coverage. HMP beneficiaries who are at least 19 but younger than 62 and do not meet exemption criteria will be subject to the new work requirements as a condition or eligibility. HMP participants who are enrolled on or after January 1, 2020, will be required to complete work or other qualifying activities for their second full month of having HMP health care coverage after they become eligible.

The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity has allocated \$2,000,000 in FY20 General Fund/General Purpose (GF/FP) funds to support HMPN within the Michigan Works! System. Michigan Works! West Central's allocation is \$80,640.

6. Healthy Michigan Plan Program Instructions FY20 (Draft 19-XX) *Action – Signatures Required*

The MDHHS will implement new work requirements beginning January 1, 2020 for Medicaid beneficiaries who have Healthy Michigan Plan (HMP) care coverage. HMP beneficiaries who are at least 19 but younger than 62 and do not meet exemption criteria will be subject to the new work requirements as a condition or eligibility. HMP participants will be required to work or to do other activities, like job search, for at least 80 hours each month.

The Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity has allocated \$2,819,400 in FY20 funds to support the required work requirement activities. Michigan Works! West Central received an allocation of \$113,678.

Ron Marek moved to accept the Trade Act Plan 20-00; the PATH Plan 20-00; the Healthy Michigan Plan Navigator (HMPN) FY20; and Healthy Michigan Plan Program Instructions FY20 as presented by Shelly Keene; motion supported by Janet Andersen; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO and those present of the WDB. 12:53 p.m.

Election of WDB Chair & Vice Chair (WDB Only – Action Item)

Ron Marek nominated Deborah Smith-Olson for Chair; supported by David Eisler.

David Eisler moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast; supported by Ron Marek. Motion accepted unanimously by those present of the WDB. 12:55 p.m.

Deborah Smith-Olson, Chair

David Eisler nominated Ron Marek for Vice Chair; supported by Janet Vyse-Staszak.

David Eisler moved that the nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast; supported by Jon Timmers. Motion accepted unanimously by those present of the WDB. 12:56 p.m.

Ron Marek, Vice Chair

PY 2018 Annual; Audit Report – Emailed Prior (Action Item)

◇ Nathan Lipton, CPA, WIPfli via Conference Call – 1:00 p.m. – Handout

Via conference call Nathan explained that Michigan Works! continues to be a “Low Risk.” There were no difficulties with the audit and no findings. He thanked staff for their cooperation and a “clean audit.”

Janet Andersen moved to accept the PY 2018 Annual Audit as printed and presented by Nathan Lipton, CPA, WIPfli; supported by Dan Massy; motion accepted unanimously by the LEO and those present of the WDB. 1:21 p.m.

Appointment of Career & Educational Advisory Council (CEAC) New Members (Action Item)

Dan Massy moved to appoint Mr. Dale Horowski to the CEAC replacing Lynda Matson and to appoint Ms. Lisa Wininger to the CEAC replacing Kathy Surd; supported by Ron Marek. Motion accepted unanimously by the LEO and those present of the WDB. 1:22 p.m.

Personnel Committee Update

Shelly updated the Boards that Michigan Works! has moved from MESSA and will be contracting with Priority Health as of January 1, 2020. This is a great savings for staff and Michigan Works!

Medicaid Work Requirements – Healthy Michigan Plan – Handout

Starting January 1, 2020, Michigan law requires participants between the ages of 19 and 62 who have Medicaid health care coverage through the Healthy Michigan Plan and do not have a reason to be exempt, will be required to work or do other activities, like job search, for at least 80 hours each month.

October Program Reports – Handout

The WIOA participants are broken down by age, barriers, services offered, genders, training and wages before and after participation in the WIOA program. Most participants are adults 25 to 44 years of age followed by older youth. Low income is the largest barrier for participants to overcome followed by a lack of basic skills. The most popular field of study is still the medical field, primarily

Registered Nurses. When comparing wages before and after the WIOA program, participants earned an average of \$4.34 more per hour.

Wagner Peyser participants are mostly 25 to 44 years of age, followed by those 45 to 54. Almost half of all participants list long term unemployment of six months or more as their barrier for employment. The two 0% in the barrier chart is because Displaced Homemakers and Foster Care Youth make up less than .25% of the total barriers. Therefore they are rounded down to 0% instead of 1%.

For Employment Services jobs filled and employers served has dropped slightly since its peak in August and September. This can be attributed to entering the “slow season.” These numbers are expected to pick up in a few months.

PATH participants are primarily white, females at 22 to 29 years of age, with some college education. Both wages and hours worked seem to peak at the 90 day retention period, and fall slightly at the 180 day retention.

Newaygo County Service Center Update – Handout

Shelly reported that the move to the new Center in Newaygo is done and an open house is being planned for Thursday, December 19, 2019 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The River Country Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting for the new Center during the event at 4:30 p.m. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

Mecosta County Business Resource Network Update – Handout

Cassie Smith reported that she is working with three businesses and she has contacted 19 employers and met with eight of them. She has attended several community meetings to generate excitement

and awareness of the Success Coach program. She has also become an ambassador for the Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce.

Newaygo County Business Resource Network Update

Julie explained that she is making headway with adding new companies to the BRN. She will be starting with the Fremont Area Community Foundation in mid-December and is expecting to add more companies by the end of December and two more after the holidays. Overall changes are being made in how funds are requested for employees; many times they are asked to participate using other funding as well as Michigan Works! funding.

Osceola/Lake County Business Resource Network Report

Mark reported on data from the third quarter of Calendar Year 2019. A majority of activity in working with clients continues to involve auto repairs. Osceola BRN members convened on September 26 for a quarterly BRN meeting to discuss how the program is working in their organizations. Mark recently met with representatives at the GEO North Lake Facility and Baldwin Family Health Care. He anticipates providing services in both of those locations in the near future.

Outreach Activities

◇ MiCareer Quest

Merri explained that they are required by the state to hold a MiCareer quest type event before the end of March 2020. This is a hands on career fair for middle and high school students. They have been extremely successful in other parts of the state. Michigan Works! was working with West Shore Community College for a smaller event but unfortunately that did not work out. The first ever West Central MiCareer quest is set for March 5, 2020 at Ferris State University. There will

be a planning committee meeting December 9th with the ISDs and 500 student invitations have been set aside for each ISD, a total of 1,500 students. There is a lot to do in a short amount of time so they will be looking for employer and Board involvement to make this event a success.

◇ National Apprenticeship Week Events

Jon explained that he worked with the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center to take nearly 70 students on tour of the Reed City Group facility during National Apprenticeship week. They were able to see some of the things the plant makes, as well as learn about their machinists USDOL registered apprenticeship program.

The following day, he worked with the Newaygo County Career Tech Center to host two apprenticeship panel discussions for more than 50 Engineering Technology, Welding and Manufacturing Technology students. During the two sessions, students were able to hear from industry professionals and an apprenticeship which has about one year left of training. Participants were from Magna Mirrors in Newaygo, Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 7 and IBEW Local 275.

◇ WSCC Perkins V Local Needs Assessment

Merri explained that Perkins V is legislation that funds career and technical education. One of the most significant changes in Perkins V is the new requirement for local eligible recipients to conduct a comprehensive local needs assessment and update it at least every two years. Merri attended a Local Needs Assessment meeting at West Shore Community College on November 15th. The assessment requires agencies to conduct a comprehensive local needs assessment to guide their local applications. These needs assessments must address six areas:

- ✓ Performance on federal accountability indicators
- ✓ Alignment with labor market needs
- ✓ Scope, size and quality of programs offered

- ✓ Progress toward implementing CTE programs and programs of study
- ✓ Recruitment, retention and training of faculty and staff
- ✓ Progress toward improving access and equity

Business Activity – Handouts

◇ Going Pro Talent Fund Application Update

Merri noted that a budget agreement still has not been reached for the Going Pro Talent Fund. The state is still very optimistic an agreement will be reached, however no one knows when. West Central still has a total of 25 companies applying for more than \$624,000 in funding and that included funding for 19 apprenticeships. Jon and Merri are both on weekly conference calls for Talent Fund updates and will continue to keep employers posted.

◇ Employer Led Collaborative Grant

Merri stated that West Central's Employer Led Collaborative Grant request for \$87,450 has been approved. The collaborative will be in health care. The agreement was signed a week ago and they have started reaching out to employers to schedule the next meeting so the grant can be discussed in more detail.

◇ Job Fairs

Jon reported that a total of 21 job fairs were held by seven different employers at the Service Centers. Besides the job fairs staff helped market hiring events for Leprino Foods in Remus; Michigan Education Transportation Services out of Lansing. They are looking for bus drivers in Reed City and Yoplait in Reed City.

◇ Rapid Response

Three Rapid Responses occurred in the West Central region since October. The companies affected were the TRV Center in Baldwin; SandMold Systems in Newaygo; and Family Dollar in Ludington.

◇ Success Stories

West Central has five success stories to share – one from last year’s Going PRO Talent Fund, one PATH participant, one WIOA Adult, one WIOA Youth and one Wagner-Peyser.

What’s New in our Region?

Chad reported that Mecosta County is seeing an influx of individuals interested in training. The Career Center winter classes start January 13th offering many different certificate programs. Many future students are reaching out for assistance from Michigan Works! Career Connect will also be starting again. Hungry Howie’s hiring events have been very productive.

For Newaygo County in follow up to the new partnership with Junior Achievement, one of the Newaygo staff was able to help out with a reverse job shadow project for the students of White Cloud Middle School.

Staff have received some really great compliments about the new Newaygo Center. Things are going well.

Toni explained that Lake County has a new Veterans’ Career Advisor and he has already started meeting with customers. It is working very well having both a Career Advisor and a county Veteran’s Representative working under the same roof.

Mason County has been busy giving orientations on Thursdays for enrollment into the WIOA program. The last two months Ludington has been extremely busy with 80 to 100 people coming into the Center on a daily basis.

Oceana County staff attended a “Rethink West Michigan” at the Double J; approximately 15 people attended. As a result some people have already stopped into the Center looking for assistance with their job search.

2019 State of the Workforce Report – Handout

Shelly explained this is an interactive tool for career exploration that uses current Michigan labor market information to help students, parents, guidance staff and job seekers make informed choices about education and career options.

Lake County Sees Employment Gains – Handout

According to statistics released by the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget, Lake County saw the largest jobless rate reduction among West Michigan non-metro counties, down from 5.6% from September to 4.6% in October. That’s the lowest jobless rate for Lake County since October 2000.

Unemployment Ranking October 2019 – Handout

All the counties in the West Central area experienced a drop in the jobless rate. Osceola County is 2.9, lower than the National average.

Updated WDB Membership List – Handout

An updated WDB membership list was given to Board members.

2020 Meeting Schedule – Handout (Blue)

The 2020 meeting schedule for the WDB/LEO joint meetings includes dates and location. The joint meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the even months, six meetings in all for the year.

Next Meeting February 5, 2020 – Michigan Works! Workforce Service Center, Newaygo

The next WDB/LEO Joint meeting will be held at the “new” Workforce Service Center in Newaygo. 9075 South Mason Drive 49337.

Round-the-Table

- » Andersen, Janet, Mason County Commissioner – they are in the final phase of the Master Plan.
- » Vyse-Staszak, Janet, DHHS – relooking at Block Grants.
- » DeLaat, Ken, Newaygo County Commissioner – construction continues on the Dragon Trail, this is a joint effort between Newaygo and Mecosta County.
- » Hogenson, Tom, Mayor of Big Rapids – they have a number of projects that require grant funding.
- » Eisler, Dave, Ferris State University – the football team is 11/0 – the Women’s Volleyball won their sixth year regular season and postseason conference championships in a row – the Men’s basketball 10/1 and the Women’s basketball is 5/1.
- » Griffin, Nancy, Michigan Rehabilitation Services – working with Shelly to have the two agencies work together. The first of the year they will be full time in the Newaygo Center.
- » Frey, Amy, Yoplait/General Mills – California is closing their plant and most of the work is coming to Reed City. Amy is moving to a new roll and her last day is Friday. Megan is the Assistant Manager and will be Amy’s replacement.

- » Stark, Liz, Mason-Lake Adult Education – in the spring they plan to start classes at West Shore Community College. The classes include EMT; introduction to Corrections; CNA; and Machining and Manufacturing.
- » Roberts, Carla, Fremont Area Community Foundation – TalNet of West Michigan is to make the West Central region more competitive. The Fremont Area Community Foundation is to convene the first meeting. The TalNet will help individuals have access to “real-time” jobs data; educators can align their training to employer requirements and employers will have an abundant supply of high-quality applicants. A win/win all the way around.
- » Massy, Dan, Osceola County Community Development – the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) filed legal briefs, Michigan Potash will most likely respond, then MCWC will have an opportunity to respond to Michigan Potash’s response. It will most likely be March before anything new is determined.

Other Business

Reserved for the Public

Adjournment

Meeting stands adjourned at 2:12 p.m.